

# Utah Valley forests 'unappreciated oases'



Harry Opfar says recreation areas are small, overloaded portion of canyon-bottom lands.

**By Kris Radish**  
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**PROVO CANYON** — Utah Valley's forest areas are a somewhat unappreciated outdoor oasis, U.S. Forest Service District Supervisor Harry Opfar told business leaders Tuesday as thousands of acres of proposed wilderness area loomed around them.

"This area brings thousands of people here each year, but we can't get any local people to show up for a hearing about changes in the Forest Service programs," said Opfar.

"People here either like what we are doing or they don't care."

Opfar was the program speaker for the monthly Provo Area Chamber of Commerce meeting at Bridal Veil Falls.

He said that with an additional 750,000 wilderness acres under proposal for Utah, the draw for outsiders coming into this area grows each day.

"We have a little bit of everything here," Opfar said. "We now have 20,000 of Utah's 30,000 wilderness acres in this area, and what you see behind me is proposed as wilderness also."

He said the campgrounds and other recreational areas in the area are already overloaded and new wilderness areas will bring in even more people.

"You have lots of young people who spend all summer just going from one wilderness area to another," he said. "The potential for bringing in even more people is great."

He said that, although Utah County has thousands of acres of wilderness land, most of the area that attracted tourists

and local people is a small portion of land in the bottoms of the canyons.

"The forest is primarily a recreational playground that, at the very least, offers us some real relief from the the heat of the valleys," Opfar said. "Because most of the land that is used is in the bottoms of the canyons, we have a few problems."

He said that last year 45,000 people tried to get campground reservations in the Uinta National Forest but couldn't.

"Just like you can only eat so much chicken," he said, "the canyons can handle just so many people."

He said the forest lands also get heavy use from hunters, horseback riders and, unfortunately, off-road vehicles.

"The off-road vehicles baffle me," Opfar said. "I am surprised there has been such little support from the people here for management of the off-road problems."

He said the hills and mountains in Utah Valley are scarred from off-road vehicles. "All the television commercials telling people to go where no one else has gone don't help," said. "We are working hard to try and get a handle on this problem."

Opfar said he is also working on a land exchange with Sundance Resort. He said the resort wants to extend one lift and is willing to trade some needed winter deer range land in Spanish Fork Canyon for the land needed for the lift.

"I also worked with the Heritage Mountain project, but there isn't anything new on that until the resort comes up with the money," he said.



cowboy's entry fee pay off.

# g parade n garb n town

as simple to figure how many people  
n town for Tuesday's Horse Parade  
e opener of the rodeo: You simply  
d all the legs and divided by six —  
r the horse and two for the rider.

parade clip-clopped its way through  
own Salt Lake City to the delight of  
nds who astutely avoided the east  
streets until a beaming sun dipped  
the buildings, giving respite from the  
noon heat.

U.S. opens  
s door



PHOTOGRAPHY/DAVE CONLEY

Horse Parade, with its 122 entries, delighted thousands in Salt Lake City.

Touted as one of the largest of its type, the horse parade featured 122 entries sandwiched between the Utah State Western Riding Club's color guard and the red-fringed surrey built by Paul and Grant Bowen, which brought up the rear.

Salt Lake Police Chief E.L. Willoughby was out of uniform but definitely in the spirit of things, astride a palomino, waving a straw hat and proudly heading up the police department's palomino posse. He was the

parade's grand marshal.

Other dignitaries, including Days of '47 officials and state, county and city officials, were either mounted or ensconced in horse-drawn buggies from another era as they covered the course. The 1984 royalty, Queen Cynthia Harvey and attendants Brooke Hudson and Julia Harvey, were lovely in long wine-colored skirts and white blouses that were in keeping with the 100-year-old

See RODEO on B-4

## Cable TV operators whack at Utah law

GENOLA, Utah County (UPI) — Farmers in southern Utah County have reacted angrily to a raid by federal agents that rounded up nearly 30 illegal aliens working in orchards during the harvest season.

"I think we all think it's a crummy deal" because the fruitgrowers can't get enough other workers to do the job, said Shirli Akins, wife of a Genola fruit farmer. "And if we did, the prices would be too high and nobody would buy the cherries."

She said agents from the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service raided her husband's farm Monday and arrested five illegal aliens who were there to pick cherries.

Officials rounded up eight illegal aliens looking for work near the Lynn Fowers orchard in Santaquin, but those aliens were not working on a farm.

Payson fruit farmer Robert McMullin said he doesn't blame the Immigration Service for doing its job. "They have a job to uphold the law, but we have to rely on the immigrants because it makes it pretty hard to get our crops harvested without them."

McMullin said while there is a 6 percent to 7 percent unemployment rate in Utah County, "People can earn more from unemployment than from picking cherries."

## Judges still on the job

Utah's two federal bankruptcy judges will stay on the job despite constitutional questions concerning their status and salary arising from